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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-08
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 /123 W
----------060538Z 075842 /22
R 060022Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3074
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, UN
SUBJECT: SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT: ROLE OF NGOS

REF: USUN 955

1. SPECIAL SESSION PREPCOM CHAIRMAN ORTIZ DE ROZAS CONVENED MEETING OF PREPCOM BUREAU MARCH 31 TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF ROLE TO BE ACCORDED NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS). DISCUSSION LED TO AGREEMENT AMONG BUREAU MEMBERS ON A PACKAGE EVEN MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THAT DISCUSSED ON MARGINS OF PREPCOM MEETING (REFTEL). ORTIZ WAS ASKED TO PREPARE A DRAFT "MODEL COMMUNICATION TO NGOS", BASED ON THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY THE BUREAU, FOR PRESENTATION TO THE PREPCOM AT ITS MAY MEETING.

2. FOLLOWING IS OUTLINE OF AGREEMENT AS REPORTED BY AUSTRALIAN AMB HARRY: BEGIN TEXT: ON 31 MARCH THE BUREAU DISCUSSED THE ROLE OF NGOS.
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THE CHAIRMAN WAS ASKED TO DRAFT, WITH THE RAPPORTEUR AND SECRETARIAT A MODEL COMMUNICATION TO NGOS SEEKING A ROLE IN RELATION TO THE SPECIAL SESSION.

THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE AGREED:
A. THE COMMITTEE SHOULD WARMLY WELCOME AND EXPRESS APPRE-

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CIATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION NGOS MAKE AND CAN MAKE IN THE DISARMAMENT FIELD.
B. NGOS SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THE COMMITTEE HOPES THEY WILL FOLLOW ITS PROCEEDINGS, WHICH WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
C. THEY SHOULD BE INVITED TO PUT THEIR VIEWS IN WRITING AND CIRCULATE THEM TO INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND/OR TO THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.
D. THE SECRETARIAT WOULD THEN CIRCULATE A LIST GIVING THE NAME OF THE ORGANISATION, AUTHOR, TITLE AND BRIEF INDICATION OF CONTENTS. THE LIST WOULD INDICATE WHETHER COPIES HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED AND ARE AVAILABLE.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED:
A. THAT A TABLE WITH STOCKS OF NGO CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE.
B. THAT NGO CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE WELCOMED BUT THAT THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO "PARTICIPATE". THEY SHOULD NOT BE INVITED TO MAKE ORAL PRESENTATIONS.
C. THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION OF "SPONSORSHIP". NGOS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS INDEPENDENT OF GOVERNMENTS. THEY SHOULD PAY FOR ANY MATERIALS CIRCULATED BY THEM.
D. THERE CAN BE NO "SELECTION" OF PARTICULAR NGOS FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT. FEAR OF NGO "AGITATION" OR "INTERFERENCE" IN SPECIAL SESSION IS DEEP AND GENERAL. SOVIET BLOC IS, OF COURSE, ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO NGO INVOLVEMENT; MANY WESTERN DELEGATIONS FEAR DOMESTIC REVERBERATIONS
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IF "THEIR" NGOS, OFTEN AFFILIATED WITH OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, ARE ALLOWED ANY STATUS; AND MANY NONALIGNED SEEM TO HAVE VAGUE FEARS THAT NGOS WILL INJECT EXTRANEOUS (OR EVEN RELEVANT) ISSUES EMBARRASSING TO THEM. ONLY IRAN, FRANCE, AND THE UNITED STATES (THE TWO LATTER PRIVATELY) HAVE INDICATED ANY WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR FACILITATING NGO CONTRIBUTIONS. GIVEN THE PREVAILING MOOD, HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PURPOSE IN PURSUING THE MATTER.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE BUREAU PROPOSAL AS OUTLINED ABOVE IS OBJECTIONABLE. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED CONCERN TO AUSTRALIANS AND ARGENTINES OVER BUREAU'S APPARENT ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR "DECIDING" HOW THE ISSUE WILL BE RESOLVED AT MAY 9 MEETING, WITHOUT PROVISION FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER PREPCOM MEMBERS. BRITISH HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN. AUSTRALIANS HAVE AGREED TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH ORTIZ, POINTING OUT THAT THEY HAVE NO MANDATE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF WESTERN DELEGATIONS AND

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SUGGESTING THAT HE UNDERTAKE CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER DELS AND CONVENE A SUBSEQUENT BUREAU MEETING TO CONSIDER ANY COMMENTS MADE TO HIM. ARGENTINES HAVE IN ANY EVENT MADE CLEAR THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS NGO QUESTION WITH ANY DEL BEFORE MAY 9. THUS, IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ANY COMMENTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, WE WILL CONVEY THEM TO ORTIZ.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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